

March 31, 1999

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Michael Friedman, M.D.
Commissioner, U.S. Food and
Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch, Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Friedman:

Please extend compassion to the millions of downer animals languishing in pain and agony in slaughter yards across the United States and **ACT** on petition docket no. 98P-0151/CP1 to classify flesh from downed animals as adulterated. Because only animals who reach the slaughterhouse alive can be used for human consumption, owners selfishly make more money selling live animals, no matter how ill or injured, than dead ones.

This compassionate petition would no longer afford owners the incentive to prolong the suffering of downed animals. And with the increase of mad cow disease and other food safety risks, the issue of downed animals is no longer a matter of animals' suffering but of consumers' health as well. The meat from one diseased cow can contaminate up to sixteen tons of mass-processed meat.

An Ethical Vegetarian Now,



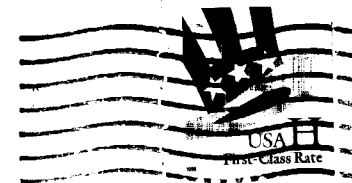
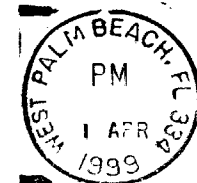
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"Custom will reconcile people to any atrocity." Shaw

98P-0151

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